

Message

From: McAtee, Jeffrey [McAtee.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/26/2021 1:37:45 PM
To: R6 Division Directors [R6_Division_Directors@epa.gov]; Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Tanimura, Erin [Tanimura.Erin@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: OPA Communications Guidance

FYSA, per David's recommendation.

V/r,
JMc

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hamilton, Lindsay" <Hamilton.Lindsay@epa.gov>
Date: January 25, 2021 at 8:57:34 AM PST
To: Regional Public Affairs Directors <Regional_Public_Affairs_Directors@epa.gov>, HQ Communications Directors <HQCommunicationsDirectors@epa.gov>, AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>, AO OPA Web Communications <AO_OPA_Web_Communications@epa.gov>, AO OPA Internal Communications <AO_OPA_Internal_Communications@epa.gov>, AO OPA Multimedia <AO_OPA_Multimedia@epa.gov>, AO OPA Immediate Office <AO_OPA_Immediate_Office@epa.gov>
Subject: Communications Guidance

Hi everyone,

Thank you for the warm welcome last week. It's a real privilege to have the opportunity to work with you and learn from you.

I want to make sure that things are moving forward, including external communications about the important work of the agency. To that end, I wanted to provide some guidance on Biden-Harris priorities, administration developments and high-profile issues.

Please review communications that might intersect with these considerations, update where needed, and contact me for input and to resolve any questions that might come up. We will continue to follow current approval processes.

I welcome questions and feedback and will be joining a lot of meetings so I can get caught up and be available if needed.

Biden-Harris Administration Priorities at the EPA

The Biden-Harris team is embracing the EPA mission to protect human health and the environment. Priorities include tackling the climate crisis and air pollution, advancing environmental justice, restoring science, protecting public health, and building back better.

Executive Orders and Chief of Staff Memo

Last week, President Biden issued an ["Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis."](#) This EO has initiated a review of all agency actions from January 20, 2017 through January 20, 2021 that are or may be inconsistent with the policies outlined in the EO and identifies for swift action four specific categories: methane emissions in the oil and gas sector, fuel economy standards, appliance and building-efficiency standards and harmful air pollution.

President Biden also recommitted the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement.

Chief of Staff Ron Klain issued a memo asking for a regulatory freeze pending review. This includes freezing, withdrawing and postponing implementation of rules as they undergo review. The EPA sent a memo to the DOJ seeking stays/abeyances on pending litigation related to regulations issued under the prior administration.

Please carefully review any communications that could be impacted by these developments.

High-Profile Issues

The team President Biden has designated to lead pandemic response is communicating aggressively around the latest developments. We should be mindful of all agency communications related to COVID-19 and ensure consistency with recent executive orders and messaging from administration leadership.

Additionally, any communications that could raise questions not covered here about the new administration's positions vis-à-vis the prior administration's policies should be noted as they are likely to generate media interest.

Thank you for your help as we navigate the first few days and weeks of the new administration. I can be reached by email or phone at (202) 510-3515. We will also have some additional new team members onboarding soon.

Thanks so much,
Lindsay

Lindsay Hamilton
Associate Administrator, Public Affairs
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